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NIAGARA.

By Dwight Burdge.

--oOo--

Where great Niagara's waters roar,
All constant as its torrents flow,
O'er caves, in cataracts before
That thunder from the chasm below,
I watched with awe the vapors rise
In clouds that veiled the very skies.

Faint ghostly peaks in snowy chains,
With link and fleck of ~~swamp~~ green,
Nor yet one mount athwart the plains
Whose yawn engulfs the river green -
A mighty surge, in deluge grand,
Of inland sea for ocean strand.

Red morning, on a flood of gleam
That leaped the gorge to light the west,
Still shimmered on the routed stream
Whose refuge is Ontario's breast,
The while a rainbow sprayed the deep
Where first the currents curl and sweep.

Back o'er Lake Erie's fateful tide,
Thence northward through the narrow straits,
And, save a halt in Huron wide,
On, up Saint Mary's terraced gates,
Those vapors find their spring-head vast--
Superior - Sweet home at last !

Our bodies like the waters wend
On to their refuge in the earth,
What time our souls like vapors trend,
Back to their source of rapt rebirth;-
And, this is Life---all nature through--
Aspiring mist, inspiring dew !

January 28, 1904.

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Mr. D. Burdge
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